



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and Stockyards
Administration

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TO: FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: David Orr, Director /s/ *David Orr*
Field Management Division

SUBJECT: Classifying Hard White Wheat Kernels

ORIGINATING OFFICE: Policies and Procedures Branch

1. PURPOSE

This memorandum establishes procedures for classifying kernels of Hard White wheat present in samples of Hard Red wheat inspected under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA).

2. BACKGROUND

The U.S. Standards for Wheat define Hard White wheat (HDWH) as “All hard endosperm white wheat varieties. There are no subclasses in this class.” The HDWH Color Line (May 1999) was established to aid the visual classification of a sample. The instructions on the Color Line Print states: “Hard endosperm wheat that exhibits an overall amber/white color equal to or better than shown shall be classified as HDWH. Hard endosperm wheat darker than the color line shall be considered as red wheat...”

HDWH wheat produced during the 2001 crop year was darker in color than normally seen. The wheat exhibited typical HDWH milling and baking properties and other characteristics except for seed coat color, which was affected by environmental conditions. HDWH buyers accepted the darker colored HDWH and segregated it from Hard Red Winter wheat (HRW). Consequently, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) decided to amend the official classification policy to conform to existing marketing practices, which facilitated trade. This was first transmitted by Program Notice FGIS PN 01-06, and subsequently by Program Notice FGIS PN-02-06.

The classification policy has been: “All Hard White wheat varieties are considered Hard White wheat regardless of color. Purity of Class is determined by visual analysis of individual kernels.”

Further the policy states: “FGIS will continue to consider only light-colored HDWH kernels as contrasting classes and wheat of other classes in HRW or Hard Red Spring (HRS) samples.”

For the purpose of classifying HDWH, particularly when kernels of HDWH are detected in samples of Hard Red wheat, the policy is reiterated and explained in greater detail.

3. INSPECTION PROCEDURES

To facilitate the trading of predominately Hard Red wheat that contains a blend of HDWH, only consider white wheat kernels which present a noticeable contrast to the prevailing color of the red wheat as Contrasting Classes (CCL) and Wheat of Other Classes (WOCL). As such, dark vitreous hard white kernels will generally be considered red wheat in such mixtures. Conversely, the lighter vitreous kernels will normally be considered CCL/WOCL due to the contrasting seed coat color.

In the case of mottled kernels, the same philosophy is to be used. That is, only those kernels which have a sizeable or distinct white spot that stands out are to be considered. Small, minor mottled areas appearing on kernels that otherwise blend with the predominating seed coat color are to remain with the predominating class of wheat.

Classify HDWH kernels according to the guidance below.

- **Pure white** – HDWH kernel is obviously white in color and the endosperm is almost entirely white and definitely contrasts upon visual appraisal is considered contrasting classes in red wheat.
- **Mottled white** – HDWH kernel which has a sizeable or distinct white spot and definitely contrasts upon visual appraisal is considered contrasting classes in red wheat.
- **Mottled white** – HDWH kernel which has a small, minor mottled area appearing on kernels that otherwise blend with the predominating seed coat color are to remain with the predominating class because they do not obviously contrast upon visual appraisal is not considered contrasting classes in red wheat.
- **Light amber** – HDWH kernel which is vitreous or bleached and definitely contrasts in the Red wheat and is easily removed upon visual appraisal is considered contrasting classes in red wheat.
- **Dark amber** – HDWH kernel which is vitreous and blends in the Red wheat and is not easily removed upon visual appraisal is not considered contrasting classes in red wheat.

Hard White wheat kernel type:	Contrasting in Red Wheat (HRW and HRS)	
	YES	NO
Pure White	✓	
Mottled White – sizable/distinct white spot	✓	
Mottled White – small/minor mottled area		✓
Light Amber	✓	
Dark Amber		✓

4. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning this policy to the Bob Lijewski, Policies and Procedures Branch, at (202) 720-0224.